

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 8-10, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (figure 1) in view of U.S. 6748743 (Foster-Pegg). Applicant's admitted prior art discloses a compressor C driving a turbine T through a combustor with a membrane M. Applicant's admitted prior art does not disclose a regulating valve V. Foster-Pegg is relied upon to disclose it's well known to use a regulating valve 50 on a bypass line of an indirect heat exchange gas turbine cycle comprising a compressor 14, turbine 22, in order to control the load of the turbine (column 4). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide a pressure regulating valve and a bypass line in the power plant of Applicant's admitted prior art in order to regulate the speed and power of the turbine.

Claims 6-7, 11, 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (figure 1) in view of U.S. 6748743 (Foster-Pegg) and further in view of WO 02/053969 (Bruun et al). Applicant's admitted prior art as modified by Foster-Pegg discloses all the claimed subject matter as set forth above in the rejection of claim 1, but does not disclose a sweep gas circuit. Bruun et al is relied upon to disclose a sweep gas circuit to provide heat input into the gas turbine

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system. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide a sweep gas circuit in Applicant's admitted prior art as taught by Bruun et al for the purpose of achieving appropriate heat input.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Examiner Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4861. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday--Friday from 12:30 AM to 10:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion can be reached on 571-272-4859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Hoang M Nguyen/
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